

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Method to produce an austenitic alloy, wherein an austenitic substrate alloy of low Al content is coated with at least one layer of an alloy of higher Al content at a substrate temperature between 100° C and 600° C, so that the resulting product has in an Al content of 4.5-12 % by weight.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): Method to produce an austenitic alloy, the method comprising coating an austenitic alloy with at least one layer of a composition of higher Al content according to claim 1, wherein [[a]] the austenitic substrate alloy [[having]] has the following composition (in % by weight):

20-70 % of Ni,

15-27 % of Cr,

0-5 % of Al,

0-4 % of Mo and/or W,

0-2 % of Si,

0-3 % of Mn,

0-2 % of Nb,

0-0.5 % of Ti,

0-0.1 % of one or more rare earth metals (REM)

balance Fe and normally occurring impurities is coated with at least one layer of a composition of higher Al content,

wherein the substrate is at a temperature between 100° C and 600° C during the coating.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Method to produce the for the manufacture of an austenitic alloy according to [[claim]] claims 1 or 2, wherein at least one layer is aluminium.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): Method to produce the for the manufacture of an austenitic alloy according to [[claim]] claims 1 or 2, wherein at least one layer is an aluminium-based alloy.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Method to produce the for the manufacture of an austenitic alloy according to claim 1, in which the aluminium-based alloy is Al having 0.5 to 25 % by weight of Si.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): Method to produce the for the manufacture of an austenitic alloy according to [[claim]] claims 1 or 2, wherein the method results in austenitic final product has the following composition (in % by weight):

0-0.2 % of C,

0-0.1 % of N,

25-70 % of Ni,

15-25 % of Cr,

4.5-12 % of Al,

0-4 % of Mo and/or W,  
0-4 % of Si,  
0-3 % of Mn,  
0-2 % of Nb,  
0-0.5 % of Ti,  
0-0.5 % of Y, Sc, Zr and/or Hf,  
0-0.2 % of one or more rare earth metals (REM) [[such as, e.g., Ce, La, Sm]],  
balance Fe and normally occurring impurities.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Austenitic alloy with an Al content of 4.5-12 % by weight, wherein it is manufacturable by the method according to [[claim]] claims 1 or 2.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The austenitic alloy according to claim 7, wherein the austenitic alloy is Use of the method according to claim 1 for producing material to be used in a high temperature application applications such as supporting material in catalytic converters and resistive heating.

Claim 9 (New): The austenitic alloy according to claim 8, wherein the high temperature application is a supporting material in a catalytic converter.

Claim 10 (New): The austenitic alloy according to claim 8, wherein the high temperature application is a resistive heater.

Claim 11 (New): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the temperature of the austenitic substrate alloy is between 150° C and 450° C during the coating.

Claim 12 (New): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claim 1, wherein the resulting Al content is 5.5-12 % by weight.

Claim 13 (New): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claim 6, wherein Al is 5.5-12 % by weight.

Claim 14 (New): Method to produce the austenitic alloy according to claim 6, wherein rare earth metals (REM) include Ce, La, and Sm.